

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03396 111459Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 GSA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 CIEP-02 /035 W

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P R 111350Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7425

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY UNN

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA UNN

AMCONSUL MADRAS UNN

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN IN

SUBJECT: MICA

REF: STATE 052365

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT. EMBOFF HAS APPOINTMENT MARCH 12 AT MINISTRY OF COMMERCE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

2. EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1975, THE EXPORT OF MICA UPTO GRADE "5" WILL BE CHANNELED THROUGH THE PUBLIC-SECTOR MICA TRADING CORPORATION LTD. (MTCL), PATNA. ACCORDING TO MR. K.L. MATHUR, UNDER SECRETARY (MICA), MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (MOC), MTCL'S ABOVE DECISION IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOI'S POLICY ANNOUNCEMENT OF JANUARY 24, 1972 TO CHANNEL THE EXPORT TRADE OF ALL CATEGORIES OF PROCESSED MICA ONLY THROUGH A PUBLIC SECTOR AGENCY.

3. MATHUR ALSO REPORTED THAT THE DECISION TO CHANNEL MICA (GRADE "5" AND BELOW) IS GUIDED BY TWO FACTORS I.E. MTCL HAS ACCUMULATED SUFFICIENT STOCKS OF MICA IN THIS PARTICULAR CATEGORY TO CATER TO THE EXPORT REQUIREMENTS; AND (B) MTCL WANTS TO HELP SMALL SIZED MICA MINE OWNERS WHO DO NOT POSSESS EXPORT CAPABILITIES.

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4. MOC IS REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE LOCAL MICA INDUSTRY AND TRADE REQUESTING GOI TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION. AMONG THE POINTS COVERED IN THE REPRESENTATIONS ARE THE POSSIBLE DISRUPTION IN THE ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH OVERSEAS BUYERS, DIFFICULTIES LIKELY TO BE FACED BY MTCL IN ADHERING TO THE SPECIFICATIONS AND DELIVERY SCHEDULES. MATHUR HAS INFORMED AN EMBREP THAT THESE REPRESENTATIONS ARE BEING EVALUATED AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND MOC WOULD SOON BE INVITING COMMENTS OF MTCL ON THE VARIOUS POINTS MENTIONED IN THE REPRESENTATIONS.

5. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN THE IMPACT OF THE MTCL'S DECISION ON THE EXISTING EXPORT CONTRACTS.

6. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ADVISE HAROLD PESTAN, VICE PRESIDENT, MICA INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, NEW YORK, OF THE FOREGOING. PESTAN HAD REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF PROPOSED GOI DECISION IN A CABLE TO THE AMBASSADOR.SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, MICA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE03396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750085-0071
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacebh.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 052365
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 SEP 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MICA
TAGS: EMIN, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006